

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04520 232120Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 /059 W
-----109733 232131Z /65
P 232104Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7641

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UNHCR
SUBJECT: DEPUTY UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES POSITION

REF: A.77GENEVA 12223; B.77GENEVA 12145; C.77STATE 291100

1. TO AN INCREASING DEGREE, WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE REPORTS THAT UNHCR HARTLING INTENDS TO DESIGNATE A THIRD-WORLD, PROBABLY AFRICAN, PERSON AS HIS DEPUTY. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE REPLACEMENT OF AN AMERICAN IN THIS KEY POSITION, WHOSE INCUMBENT SERVES IN EFFECT AS ACTING UNHCR DURING HIGH COMMISSIONER'S FREQUENT AND PROTRACTED ABSENCES, COULD SERIOUSLY IMPAIR OUR HERETOFORE FREE AND PRODUCTIVE LIAISON WITH THAT OFFICE.

2. DEPARTMENT MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT, IN ADDITION TO CURRENTLY VACANT POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF ASSISTANCE, THE COMPANION POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF PROTECTION, ALSO A D-2, WILL BECOME AVAILABLE WITH THE MANDATORY RETIREMENT OF ITS INCUMBENT, GILBERT JAEGER, IN OCTOBER 1978. THUS, MR. HARTLING WILL HAVE TWO OTHER POSITIONS AT THE D-2 LEVEL WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR OCCUPANCY BY NATIONALS OTHER THAN AMERICAN.

3. IT MAY BE OF RELEVANT INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT TO
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KNOW THAT THE MISSION HAS LEARNED THAT, IN THE COURSE OF HIS AFRICAN JOURNEY IN JANUARY, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS PRESSED IN EVERY COUNTRY EXCEPT SWAZILAND, NOT TO THE END THAT HE APPOINT AN AFRICAN IN THE DEPUTY POSITION, BUT THAT HE PLACE AT LEAST ONE AFRICAN IN ONE OF THE NINE DIRECTOR LEVEL (D-1,D-2) POSITIONS. ASSUMING THIS TO BE CORRECT, OUR PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING THAT MR. HARTLING HAD

BEEN UNDER PRESSURE TO PLACE AN AFRICAN SPECIFICALLY IN
THE DEPUTY POSITION, IS NO LONGER VALID.

4. IN VIEW OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RETURN TO GENEVA
ON MARCH 28 AFTER THE EASTER HOLIDAY PERIOD, THE DEPART-
MENT IS URGED TO AUTHORIZE THE AMBASSADOR TO APPROACH HIM
TO EXPRESS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED CRI-
TICAL INTEREST IN ASSURING THAT THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMIS-
SIONER POSITION REMAIN STAFFED BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.
VANDEN HUEVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA04520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780129-0104
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780333/aaaabbtg.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 013a1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GENEVA 12223, 77 GENEVA 12145, 77 STATE 291100
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3228788
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPUTY UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES POSITION
TAGS: AORG, UNHCR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/013a1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014